



Governor's Office for Children and Families

QUARTER 1

JULY 2011

Meet Our Staff

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Quarterly Newsletter

GOCF and your communities work hard to strengthen Georgia's children and families. So, the intent of this publication is to keep you updated with recent events, new trends and research, and upcoming opportunities that are being provided by GOCF and your communities. We hope that it will be a useful resource for you!

Congratulations Joe Vignati!

-Juvenile Justice Programs Manager for GOCF

On May 22nd the National Coalition for Juvenile Justice presented the 2011 Tony Gobar Outstanding Juvenile Justice Specialist Award to Joe Vignati for his:

"demonstrated passion and dedication to bettering the juvenile justice system, advocacy for detention alternatives and service as a leader and a voice for juvenile justice specialists from around the nation in his role as the CJJ National Juvenile Justice Specialist. By exemplifying leadership through service, he reminds us all that every child is indeed special."

Community Highlight

Committed Fathers Alliance Honors Jai Dowdy, a father involved with the Rome MELD program with National Father of the Year

Jai Dowdy was awarded the National Father of the Year Honor in Washington DC by the Committed Fathers Alliance in June of this year! The twenty-nine year old father of three traveled to Washington DC for the first time all the way from Rome, Georgia to accept the honor and give advice to other fathers.

To read more on this story, [click here](#) or to find out more about the Committed Fathers Alliance [click here](#).

Picture of Jai Dowdy with his son, Jai Dowdy Jr. 6, and two daughters Jayla, 6, left, and Jamya, 7.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

17th Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference presented by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence

Sept. 12&13, 2011

11th Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference presented by Children's Health Care of Atlanta

Oct. 24&25, 2011

GOCF Advisory Board Members

Judge Steve Teske, *Chair*
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Kathy Schrader
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We Unite and Empower Communities So They Can Unite and Empower Families

New Research and Publications

Weekly Grant Writing Tips are Live on the GOCF Website!

The Governor's Office for Children and Families is pleased to introduce weekly grant-writing tips on the home-page of its website. The goal for the tips is to support communities in locating grant writing resources, enhance grant writing skills and increase funding to provide services and ensure program sustainability.

Here is one of this week's grant writing tip - Action Words

The effective use of verbs, adjectives, and adverb will bring an otherwise drab proposal narrative alive by adding sights, sounds, feelings, and a distinct bias. The right verbs, adjectives and adverbs throughout your proposal will make it both interesting and compelling.

Please [click here](#) to see all of this week's tip and those to come!

Violence Against Women: A Lifespan Perspective

The latest white paper, *Violence Against Women: A Lifespan Perspective*, provides an overview of how violence against women is perpetuated across the lifespan and presents perspectives from the literature on effective and appropriate approaches for responding to it. Each section presents the types of physical and sexual violence experienced by girls and adolescents, as well as by college-aged, adult and elderly women and then concludes with a discussion of the prevention and intervention approaches specific to each stage of life. The paper concludes with a discussion on how exploration of the research has pointed to the importance of an ecological approach to address violence against women, and provides recommendations for its use.

To view the white paper, please [click here](#) or visit GOCF's Family Violence page on its website at www.children.ga.gov.

HB 200: Freedom From Human Trafficking Act

HB 200 was passed by the General Assembly on April 14, 2011. A revision to the Georgia Human Trafficking Statute (O.C.G.A. § 16-5-46), HB 200 was introduced to improve outcomes for trafficking victims and enhance accountability for traffickers. Governor Deal signed the bill into effect on May 3, 2011. Please [click here](#) for more information on this landmark legislation.

HB 185/SB 94: Runaway Youth Safety Act

A revision of Title 16 of the Georgia Code, HB 185/SB 94 was introduced to address the issues that runaway and homeless youth have with regards to finding shelter and services. This bill allows service providers the ability to offer food, shelter and counseling to runaway and homeless youth within a 24-72 hour window. Governor Deal signed the bill into effect on May 11, 2011. Please visit GOCF's website to view the information on this bill.

Grant Awards

System of Care: Community Strategy Year 2 Continuation Grant Program Awards

The Governor's Office for Children and Families announced ten (10) Year 2 Community Strategy Grant Program Awards with a beginning date of June 1, 2011. The Educated-focused grant awards totaled \$592,236 and are located in communities all across Georgia.

- **Berrien County Board of Education: \$65,761**
- **Coastal Coalition for Children Inc.: \$69,858**
- **Columbus Consolidated Government: \$41,542**
- **Cordele Housing Authority: \$36,075**
- **Georgia College and State University: \$64,826**
- **Hall County Board of Commissioners: \$70,737**
- **Laurens County Board of Commissioners: \$73,743**
- **Prevent Child Abuse Athens: \$59,156**
- **Thomasville Community Resource Center: \$63,495**
- **Towns County Board of Education: \$47,043**

Trainings and Conferences

Upcoming trainings hosted by GOCF that are not listed on this newsletter can be found by visiting GOCF's training calendar at <http://gocfweb.com>. Be sure to check them out!

Upcoming Events

17th Annual Statewide Family Violence Conference - Presented by the Georgia Commission on Family Violence

There's No One Solution:

Integrating Prevention and Intervention Against Domestic Violence

September 12-13, 2011

Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel

Atlanta, GA

Registration:

June 15 - September 7, 2011

To register, please [click here](#).

11th Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Conference –Presented by Children's Health Care of Atlanta

Help A Child When It Matters Most

October 24-25, 2011 (the 24th will be dedicated to commercial sexual exploitation of children)

Omni Hotel @ CNN Center, Atlanta, GA

Registration:

Begins August 15th, 2011

To Register, please click here or visit www.choa.org/annualconference

Contact: Elizabeth Williams, cpctraining@choa.org

Online Training Series for Georgia Medical Professionals on CSEC

This web-based training series is presented by the Governor's Office for Children and Families and The Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children. The series aims to educate Georgia medical professionals on the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). The series includes four individual modules on CSEC-related topics which will be presented via live webinars.

For a training schedule or more information on the webinars and how to access them, please contact Jennifer Felner at Jennifer.Felner@choa.org.

Early Childhood and Family Engagement Trainings

The Governor's Office for Children and Families is sponsoring the following August - September on-site trainings provided by Sheltering Arms Georgia Training Institute:

Authentic Relationships with Diverse Families

Communicating with Skill and Heart

Engaging Men

Caring for the Caregiver: Loving Ourselves for the Sake of Our Children

Please visit our GOCF's training calendar for more information or [click here](#).

Online Training Opportunities

GOCF is providing free online trainings in partnership with Care Solutions, Inc. Three new training topics are available each quarter. Please [click here](#) to view the available on-line courses during July – September, 2011.